

Spectrum

Easter Bunny leads egg hunt

Bonnie Heater
Signal staff

Despite the threatening rain clouds hanging over Freedom Park the post library's annual Easter egg hunt took place as scheduled March 19.

This year the hunt took place at Freedom Park. Most of the children and their parents who participated have been actively involved since September 2007 in the Woodworth Consolidated Library's Children's Story Hour program, which meets every Wednesday at 11 a.m. and features a new story every week.

Parents and their children assembled in the library to get last minutes instructions from the Easter Bunny, played by Laura Valley.

Small, colorful straw Easter baskets and bags were distributed to those who didn't already have a basket.

Valley, the executive assistant to the director of Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, then led the children to Freedom Park, where they were broken up into three separate age groups. Infants up to age one hunted with a parent for eggs in one area while children from 2 to 3 years old looked for eggs in another section of the park.

In yet another area of

Freedom Park children ages 4 to 5 searched for eggs.

More than 600 eggs were gathered; all were stuffed full of assorted candies. Twelve golden eggs were filled with money, according to Joyce Daniels, the children's program coordinator for the library. Four golden eggs were hidden in each age section, she said.

Five of the children received new baskets stuffed full of assorted toys and candies for gathering the most eggs. They were Braydon Dykstra, age 2 ½ and the son of Kim and Capt. Adam Dykstra; Cecily Lancaster, age 3, the daughter of Darrin and Marsha Lancaster; and John Grant, age 3, the son of Capt. Linda Grant. JoAnn James accompanied her grandson John Grant in the hunt. Isabella Cato, age 2 ½, the daughter of Adam and Kelsie; and Elissa Deweese, age 1 ½, and the daughter of Mary and Sgt. 1st Class Cullen Deweese, also won a toy and candy filled Easter basket. Deweese collected the most eggs; she took home two golden eggs stuffed with money and 44 candy-filled eggs, said the library's children's program coordinator.

According to Daniels the annual event turned how quite well despite everyone's concern with the weather. The

dark clouds were moving in and it began drizzling while we hiding the eggs in the park, but the rain held off for us, she said.

Several Airmen from the 31st Intelligence Squadron helped out with the annual Easter egg hunt. They were Senior Airman Amy Westlund, Airman 1st Class James Harrod, Senior Airman Brandi Geniuk, and Senior Airman Kristie Leach.

Other upcoming events at the Woodworth Consolidated Library include the 50th Anniversary of National Library Week, April 13 -19.

The post library will kick off the celebration 11 a.m. April 14 with a Mickey Mouse Puppet show featuring Jeanne Stewart of the post Religious Support Office.

A Roller Derby story time is slated for 11 a.m. April 15; the library's Children's Story Hour program concludes with a cook-out at the Fort Gordon Hilltop Riding Stables from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 16; and from 11 a.m. to noon April 17 there will be prizes awarded for participating in an assortment of games on Bingo Day at the post library.

The post library's summer reading program kicks off June 14 for infants and children up to age 14. It runs through July 30. Parents are encouraged to join their children for this weekly event.

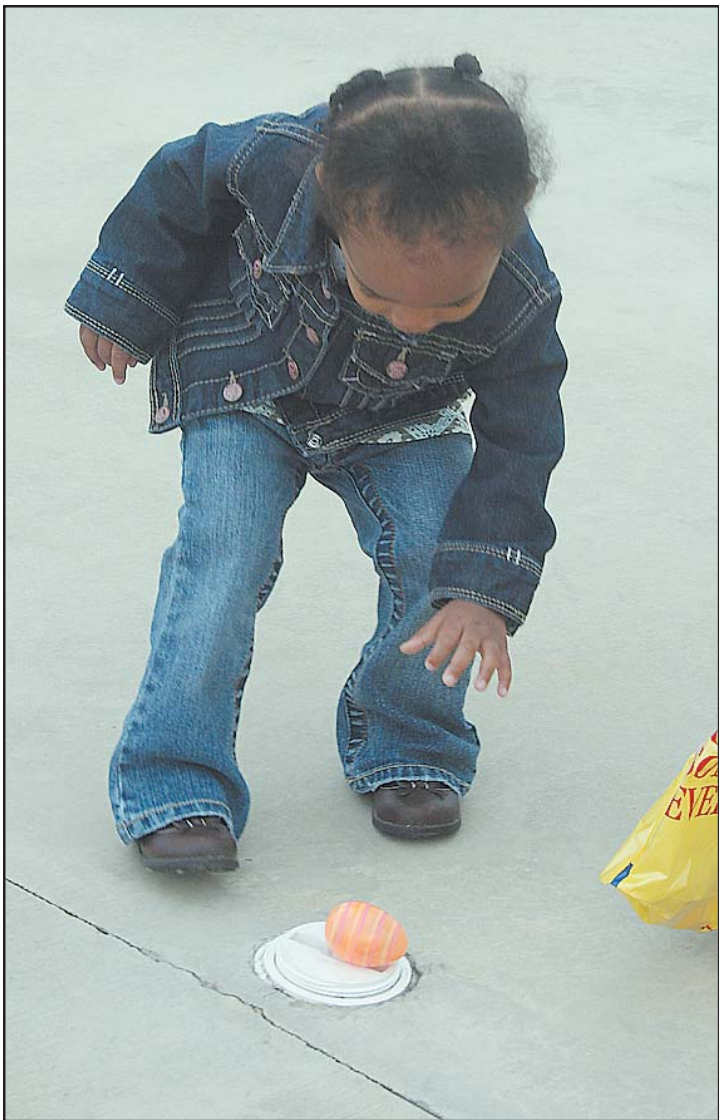


Photos by Bonnie Heater

(Above) The Easter Bunny gives last minutes instructions to parents and children before the Woodworth Consolidated Library's annual Easter egg hunt kicked off March 19 at Freedom Park. (Below) The Easter Bunny leads the procession of eager youngsters on to the Easter egg hunt. (Below left) Freedom park was lush, green and flecked with treats and treasures that the hunters found inviting.



Senior Airman Amy Westlund, a volunteer for the post library's Easter egg hunt, helps 18-month old Connor Moore and 3-year old Bailey Cooper find eggs hidden in the grass and trees. Cooper's identical twin Kiley also participated in the search for hidden eggs.



(Left) Bailey Cooper had all good intentions to get as many eggs as she could in her basket, but all the brightly colored flowers in the lawn at Freedom Park seemed a better prize. Thank goodness the Easter Bunny will be bringing her a chocolate covered bunny, jelly beans, and some peanut butter filled eggs Easter Sunday or she might not have any to eat. (Above) Braydon Dykstra, age 2 ½, has piled just enough eggs in his basket to win a new toy-candy filled basket. (Above right) Imani Johnson, age 1, has spotted an egg. She is the daughter of Capt. Melissa Johnson, Company C, 369th Signal Battalion commander.